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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:SMECTON:EH
APPROVED BY EA/J:NPLATT
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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R 151846Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 221526

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, JA

SUBJECT: NY TIMES ARTICLE ON AMB. MANSFIELD

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF SEPTEMBER 15 BEGINNING THE SECOND SECTION. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE AMBASSADOR ARRIVING AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE ACCOMPANIED THE ARTICLE. BEGIN QUOTE: "MIKE MANSFIELD, THE AMBASSADOR, DOESN'T MISS SENATE, ONE BIT".

2. MIKE MANSFIELD, THE NEW UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, WAS PRESIDING OVER A RECENT STAFF MEETING HERE WHEN ONE EMBASSY BUREAUCRAT BEGAN PONTIFICATING. "MR. AMBASSADOR," HE SAID, "IT WOULD TAKE ME SEVERAL HOURS TO ADEQUATELY OUTLINE THE FULL DETAILED RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS POLICY."

3. THE AMBASSADOR FROM MONTANA PUFFED ON HIS PIPE ONCE OR TWICE AND REPLIED, "I DON'T THINK YOU COULD DO IT IF YOU HAD SEVERAL YEARS."

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4. THE REMARK, SPOKEN PLAINLY WITHOUT RANCOR, DEMONSTRATED THE NEW TONE THAT THE 74-YEAR-OLD FORMER SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HAS BROUGHT HERE IN HIS DIPLOMATIC SADDLEBAGS.

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO NEW PROFESSION. "HE HAS A VERY LOW TOLERANCE," AN EMBASSY OFFICER SAID, "FOR UH, HOW CAN I SAY

IT POLITELY, BARNYARD BUNK."

6. IN HIS FIRST HUNDRED DAYS IN THIS NEW CAREER HE HAS ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF ADJUSTMENTS TO MAKE. DURING RECENT INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS AND A MEETING WITH RESIDENT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS, MR. MANSFIELD SAID THAT HE HAD LESS PERSONAL FREEDOM AS AN AMBASSADOR THAN AS A SENATOR, BUT THAT HE AND HIS WIFE, MAUREEN, NOW HAD MORE TIME TOGETHER ALTHOUGH SHE WAS BUSY MANAGING THE LARGE EMBASSY HOUSEHOLD.

7. MR. MANSFIELD ADDED THAT HE FELT THAT LEAVING THE SENATE LAST JANUARY WAS A WISE MOVE. "IT WAS THE BEST DECISION I EVER MADE," HE DECLARED. "I DON'T MISS IT ONE BIT."

8. COMMENTING ON HIS DUTIES, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY PROBLEMS IN UNITED STATES-JAPANESE RELATIONS, AND HE ADDED: "I'M FINDING THEY ARE MOSTLY ECONOMIC."

9. THE SEEDS OF ANOTHER, A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS ONE, REST IN THE FAME AND PRESTIGE THAT MR. MANSFIELD HAS AMONG THE AVERAGE JAPANESE. THE APPOINTMENT OF A WELL-KNOWN CONGRESSIONAL ELDER, WITH VAST ASIAN EXPERIENCE, TO THE TOKYO POST WAS WIDELY INTERPRETED HERE AS RECOGNITION BY PRESIDENT CARTER OF JAPAN'S IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED
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STATES.

10. IN THE JAPANESE MASS MEDIA, MR. MANSFIELD IS KNOWN AS AN "OMONO TAISHI," OR A "BIG-NAME AMBASSADOR." THE IMPLICATION IS THAT HIS BASIC SYMPATHIES AND UNDERSTANDING REST WITH JAPAN.

11. MR. MANSFIELD HAS SOUGHT AT TIMES SINCE HIS ARRIVAL ON JUNE 7 TO EXPLAIN SYMPATHETICALLY THE JAPANESE SIDE TO AMERICANS -- HOW VULNERABLE THEY FEEL OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, FOR INSTANCE.

12. IN RECENT WEEKS HE USED HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TO EXPLAIN THE SERIOUSNESS OF AN AMERICAN REJECTION OF JAPAN'S NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANS.

13. BUT UNLIKE SOME PREVIOUS AMERICAN AMBASSADORS HERE, MR. MANSFIELD LEAVES NO QUESTIONS IN PRIVATE STAFF MEETINGS AND EVEN IN SOME RATHER BLUNT PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS TO WHICH NATION IS UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND.

14. "WHAT," HE OFTEN ASKS AIDES OUTLINING A PROGRAM, "ARE

THE EFFECTS ON UNITED STATES INTERESTS?"

15. ON THE QUESTION OF AN AMERICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH KOREA, AN ISSUE ON WHICH MANY JAPANESE OFFICIALS HAVE DOUBTS, MR. MANSFIELD HAS SOLIDLY DEFENDED PRESIDENT CARTER.

16. AND ON THE QUESTION OF TRADE DIFFICULTIES WITH JAPAN, IT WAS A SPEECH BY MR. MANSFIELD ON JULY 19, IN WHICH HE LECTURED THE JAPANESE ON THE REALITIES OF AMERICAN POLITICS AND GROWING PROTECTIONISM, THAT LED UP TO AN INTENSIFYING UNITED STATES ASSAULT ON JAPAN'S WHOPPING TRADE SURPLUSES.

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17. ECONOMIC EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. MR. MANSFIELD SUGGESTED AN ECONOMIC EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM TO DETECT UNITED STATES JAPAN TRADE PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY BECOME MAJOR.

18. ASAHI SHIMBUN, JAPAN'S MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER, EVEN CAUTIONED EDITORIALY THAT OVERESTIMATING MR. MANSFIELD'S SYMPATHIES WOULD LEAD TO DISILLUSION AND DISAPPOINTMENT.

19. THE AMBASSADOR'S BASIC INTEREST IN ASIA SPRINGS FROM A 1920-21 TOUR OF DUTY IN CHINA AS A MARINE. "I'VE ALWAYS FELT," HE SAYS, "THAT WHILE THE PULL ON AMERICANS WAS TOWARD EUROPE, THE PUSH HAS ALWAYS BEEN WESTWARD ACROSS THE CONTINENT AND THE PACIFIC. THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. LIES IN THE PACIFIC AND THE RIM OF ASIA."

20. MR. MANSFIELD SAID HE WOULD NEVER HAD CONSIDERED ANY POST OTHER THAN JAPAN. "WE ENJOYED OUR 10 WEEKS OF RETIREMENT AND FREEDOM," HE SAID. "BUT AFTER ENOUGH PERSUASION WE CAME BACK TO WORK."

21. AS AMBASSADOR, MR. MANSFIELD PRESIDES OVER THE LARGEST AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THE WORLD. IT HAS 700 EMPLOYEES IN A MODERN 12-STORY STRUCTURE NEXT DOOR TO A PALATIAL AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

22. EMBASSY STAFF SPLIT ON POLICY. AS HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY HERE, THE EMBASSY STAFF IS DIVIDED INTO TWO CAMPS--ONE THAT FEELS THE "INSULAR JAPANESE" REQUIRE SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING BY THE UNITED STATES, AND ANOTHER CAMP THAT IS LESS INCLINED TO HIDE FEELING OF IMPATIENCE.

23. "WHEN THINGS WERE FAT AND TIMES WERE GOOD," SAID A
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MEMBER OF THE SECOND GROUP, "WE COULD PUT UP WITH JAPAN'S LITTLE WHITE LIES ABOUT ECONOMIC PLANS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE LIKE. BUT NOT NOW. AND I THINK THE NEW AMBASSADOR IS GOING TO SHAKE SOME JAPANESE UP TO THE POTENTIAL FOR REAL TROUBLE WITH THE UNITED STATES."

24. MR. MANSFIELD, ALWAYS WITH PIPE IN HAND, HAS STUCK FAIRLY CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY DURING HIS FIRST THREE MONTHS. HE DOES LESS ENTERTAINING THAN PREVIOUS AMBASSADORS AND ARRIVES AT HIS NINTH FLOOR DESK SHARPLY AT 7:30 A.M.

25. HE HAS BEEN SIZING UP EMBASSY PERSONNEL, INSIDERS REPORT, AND APPEARS DRAWN TO THOSE WITH THE LOWEST SO-CALLED "BARNYARD BUNK QUOTIENT."

26. HARD DAYS FOR 'BARNYARD BUNK' AIDES. "I'M JUST FEELING MY WAY AROUND AND GETTING MY TOES WET," HE SAYS. BUT HE APPEARS WELL BRIEFED AND HAS A WEALTH OF FACTS AND FIGURES IN MIND FOR ANY CONVERSATION, EXCEPT THOSE IDLE ONES ABOUT THE WEATHER, WHICH SEEM TO CAUSE HIS EYES TO GLAZE.

27. HE SAYS HE NOW HAS LESS CONTROL OVER HIS OWN TIME. "I FEEL A COMPULSION TO MEET WITH SO MANY PEOPLE," HE SAYS. "IT'S A COMPULSION I DIDN'T FEEL IN POLITICS EXCEPT IN CAMPAIGN YEARS."

28. BUT HE AND HIS WIFE DO HAVE MORE TIME TOGETHER. "SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO COOK ANYMORE," THE AMBASSADOR SAID. "BUT SHE'S TURNING INTO A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT KEEPING MORE HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT."

29. "I'VE NEVER BEEN BUSIER IN MY LIFE," MRS. MANSFIELD TELL VISITORS.

30. MR. MANSFIELD WAS ASKED WHETHER SHE LIKED THE LIFE OF
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AN AMBASSADOR'S WIFE. HE PUFFED TWICE ON HIS PIPE. "I THINK SO," HE REPLIED.

31. "AND DO YOU LIKE IT?" TWO MORE PUFFS. "I THINK SO.
END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE221526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMECTON:EH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770335-1093
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770959/aaaabxrv.tel
Line Count: 222
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 400caa45-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1256762
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NY TIMES ARTICLE ON AMB. MANSFIELD
TAGS: SOPN, JA, (MANSFIELD, MIKE)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/400caa45-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009